

FREMONT RIVER DISTRIBUTION MEETING MINUTES ANNUAL WATER USERS MEETING

Minutes of the Fremont River Distribution System held at Loa, Utah, February 25, 1999 The meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. with Lee Sim conducting.

Lee brought the meeting to order. Minutes of the previous year's meeting were read by Kirk Forbush of the Richfield Water Rights Office. No corrections were necessary so the minutes were approved by John D. Jackson, seconded by Alvin Robison, all approved.

Lee Sim then read the financial report, budget expenditures, and reported there was one delinquent water assessment for 1998. He mentioned that Jan Ellett had not submitted any contractual expenses or salary expenses for the year and so no money was expended for these line items in the report. He reminded the water users that it was voted that the commissioner's salary was set at \$100.00 per month base salary plus \$5.00 per hour for time put in by the commissioner. Mr. Ellett indicated he would get expenses submitted to the Division of Water Rights. A motion was then made by Richard Jensen to accept the financial report, seconded by Forrest Sims. The motion carried.

The River Commissioner then gave an oral report on the activities on the river for 1998. He mentioned water supplies for the 1998 season were very good with ample supply in the river through the entire season. The commissioner did not have copies of the report to pass out to the water users but did send a copy to the Division of Water Rights Office. He said that next year he would have copies to hand out to the water users. He mentioned that the Garkane Canal still presents a challenge in terms of getting measurements on it because after having been deepened, it is difficult to get water out of the canal to the individual headgates because they are up high along the canal bank. Currently there is no way to shut off the canal so that a work can be done on the headgates. A check dam will need to be placed so this can be done. State Stone did not want the water cut off so the canal is still running higher than ever right now. The application that they filed was to divert water from the river and run it through the Garkane Canal. There was an inquiry to see if a masonry dam could be installed in the river to measure the water into the Garkane Canal. Kirk Forbush suggested the water users look into obtaining a ramp flume to measure the water in the Canal. There was no motion to accept the report because it was not available to the water users this year.

Lee then discussed the budget for next year with the water users. He mentioned the law requiring bonding of the commissioners was rescinded last year during the legislative session, therefore an amount need not be budgeted for the \$50.00 bonding expense. After some discussion, the budget was set at \$4,650.00 and the assessment set at \$4,500.00. A motion was made by Richard Jensen to accept the budget and assessment for 1999, seconded by Alvin Robison, all approved.

A motion was then made by Forrest Sims and seconded by Richard Jensen to nominate Jan Ellett as the commissioner for 1999. All approved.

Lee then invited nominations for committee members for the upcoming year. Forrest Sims made a motion to have the committee members remain the same as last year and put them back in

by acclamation, seconded by Richard Jensen, all approved.

Lee Sim then discussed a proposal being made by the Division of Water Rights to have commissioners appointed for a period of four years instead of every year with the thought being that this will bring better stability to the commissioner's position. It takes several years for a commissioner to learn his or her responsibilities and knowledge of how the river is to be operated. Activities of the commissioner would still be reviewed each year and if the commissioner is performing satisfactorily, he would continue on for the next year. If the majority of the water users wish to have the commissioner replaced, then a new commissioner could be put in place by majority vote.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Those attending the meeting:

Jan Ellett	River Commissioner
Lee Sim	Div. of Water Rights
John S. Larsen	Div. of Water Rights
Kirk Forbush	Div. of Water Rights
Matthew Alexander	Alexander Ranches
Richard Jensen	Water User
Alvin Robison	Hanksville Canal Co.
Forrest Sims	Water User
John D. Jackson	Caineville Canal Co.
Pete Johnson	Water User
Leon Chappell	Torrey Irrigation
Ed White	Water User
Terry Albrecht	Hanksville Canal Co.
Jeffrey Pace	Capitol Reef Nat. Park
Charles Callis	Water User
Bonnie Callis	Water User